



Without conceding the correctness of the Examiner's rejection, claim 10 has been amended to recite a method for identifying a candidate compound for treating a neuropsychiatric or neurodevelopmental disorder, comprising (i) contacting a reconstituted system for measuring the interaction of a presenilin associated membrane protein (PAMP) and a PAMP substrate comprising (a) a PAMP, or a functional fragment thereof, and (b) a PAMP substrate, with a test compound, and (ii) detecting a difference in the interaction of a PAMP and a PAMP substrate in the presence of the compound compared to the interaction of a PAMP and a PAMP substrate in the absence of the compound, wherein a decrease in the interaction of a PAMP and a PAMP substrate identifies the candidate compound.

The present amendments are believed to address and overcome the Examiner's rejection of the present claims for failing to clearly define the function of a PAMP and clearly describe how the presently claimed method could be used to identify a useful compound.

Additionally, applicants' address the Examiner's assertion that it is not clear how a difference in PAMP activity correlates with a compound useful for treating a neuropsychiatric or neurodevelopmental disease. Applicants respectfully submit that the specification clearly describes the correlation between the interaction of a PAMP and a PAMP substrate and a neuropsychiatric or neurodevelopmental disease, and how compounds which modulate the interaction of a PAMP and a PAMP substrate may be useful in treating such diseases. See, e.g., page 5, lines 14-17, page 6, line 20 through page 7, line 2, and page 42, lines 17-28. In addition to the above noted description, applicants have provided a working example that establishes the correlation between the interaction of a PAMP and a PAMP substrate and the secretion of A $\beta$ , which has been implicated in neuropsychiatric and neurodevelopmental diseases. See, page 45, lines 18-25.

Therefore, in view of the present amendments and remarks, applicants' submit that the present claims are clear and unambiguous and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

*(b) Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph*

The Examiner has further rejected claims 10, 11 and 17-23 for allegedly failing meet the written description requirement. Specifically, the Examiner maintains that the specification does



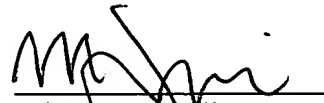
**CONCLUSIONS**

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining, which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Michael J. Sullivan  
Reg. No. 54,479  
Attorney for Applicants

DARBY & DARBY, P.C.  
Post Office Box 5257  
New York, NY 10150-5257  
Phone (212) 527-7700